

App. No. 10/811,234
Amendment Dated: September 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 have been cancelled. New claims 28-54 have been added. No new matter has been added.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 9, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1). Examiner Gautam stated that the document has been acknowledged but has not been entered. Applicants are currently considering the issues raised in the Office Action and will submit further documents in a forthcoming submission if applicants deem that consideration necessary.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have cancelled the claims and submit herein new claims 28-54. Applicants believe that the new claims are sufficient under 35 U.S.C. 101 and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Rejection of claims 1-27

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 17-21, 23-24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Non-patent Literature Microsoft Excel 2000 (as described in the book "Using Microsoft Excel 2000", by Angie Wethington, published by Que corporation, May 1999, pages 545-549, (hereinafter "Excel"). Claims 4-5, 8-10, 22, and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel. As stated above, claims 1-27 are canceled and claims 28-54 are new. In hopes of furthering prosecution, the new claims are discussed herein. Independent claim 28 includes the following combination of elements not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

"associating a bounding formula with an application cell, wherein the bounding formula includes a range of permitted values"

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"receiving a value associated with the application cell"

"determining whether the received value is *within the range of permitted values of the bounding formula*"

"permitting the received value when the received value is within the range of permitted values of the bounding formula"

"automatically changing the received value to a value within the range of permitted values of the bounding formula when the received value is outside the range of permitted values of the bounding formula"

Applicants assert that the above combination of elements is not taught or suggested by Excel. Excel teaches an auxiliary validation process. Excel further teaches that "[w]ith this feature, you also decide how you want Excel to respond to noncompliance: Display an error message and refuse the entry? Accept the incorrect entry but warn the user that it's problematic?" There is no teaching or suggestion of "a bounding formula" or "automatically changing the received value to a value within the range of permitted values of the bounding formula when the received value is outside the range of permitted values of the bounding formula." Accordingly applicants assert that independent claim 28 is allowable. Independent claim 38 includes the following combination of elements not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

"binding an object with the object bounding formula, wherein the object bounding formula includes a range of permitted values, wherein the object is bound by the range of permitted values"

"receiving a value associated with the object"

"determining whether the value is *within the range of permitted values of the object bounding formula*"

"permitting the received value when the received value is within the range of permitted values of the object bounding formula"

"automatically changing the received value to a closest value within the range of permitted values when the received value is outside the range of permitted values"

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Applicants rely on the arguments set forth above in support for independent claim 38. Independent claim 47 includes the following combination of elements not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

"a memory having computer-executable instructions associated therewith, wherein the computer-executable instructions are configured to"

"provide a spreadsheet cell for receiving a value"

"bind the spreadsheet cell with a cell bounding formula, wherein the cell bounding formula includes a range of values associated with a bounding class"

"receive a value associated with the spreadsheet cell"

"apply the received value to the cell bounding formula to determine whether the received value is associated with the range of values associated with the bounding class"

"automatically permit the received value when the received value is associated with the range of values associated with the bounding class"

"automatically change the value to a closest value of the range of values associated with the bounding class when the received value is not associated with the range of values associated with the bounding class"

Applicants rely on the arguments set forth above in support for independent claim 47. With regard to the dependent claims, those claims include elements not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited reference. Moreover, the dependent claims ultimately depend from independent claims 28, 38 and 47, respectively. As such the dependent claims are thought allowable for at least the same reasons set forth for the independent claims.

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IV. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Ryan T. Grace
Registration No. 52,956
Direct Dial: 206.342.6258

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200

